

## A NEW SPECIES OF PRESTONIA FROM BRAZIL

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PRESTONIA LEPTOLOBA Monachino, sp. nov.

Frutex scandens, caule minute puberulo; foliis glabris ovato-lanceolatis 18--23 cm. longis, 8.5 cm. latis, ad basin obtusis, ad apicem breviter acuminatis; inflorescentiis supra furcatis racemoso-subumbelliformibus, pedunculo elongato, pedicellis usque ad 3.5 cm. longis puberulis; calyce ad basin gibboso, lobis extus puberulis erectis deltoideo-ovatis ca. 2.6 mm. longis, 2.4 mm. latis, ad apicem subacutis; squamellis integris vel obscure denticulatis; corolla salveriformi, parte superiore extus parce puberula, tubo 12 mm. longo, parte superiore intus pilosa, lobis patentibus 7--8 mm. longis, annulo faucali leviter incrassato, appendicibus epistaminalibus ca. 1 mm. longis proxime apicem tubi corollae insertis et orem aequantibus; staminibus proxime apicem tubi corollae insertis; antheris exsertis dorso hirtellis 5.4 mm. longis; ovario glabro, nectariis disjunctis ca. 1 mm. longis.

Vine, the stem minutely puberulent, the leaves glabrous, ovate-lanceolate, 18--23 cm. long, about 8.5 cm. broad, obtuse at base, short-acuminate at apex, nitidous above, pale beneath and punctate with minute dark dots, the lateral nerves arching, about 11 pairs; inflorescence forked above, racemose-subumbelliform, the peduncle elongated, over 15 cm. long (?), the pedicels long and slender, up to 3.5 cm. long, minutely puberulent; calyx strongly gibbous at base, the lobes medially thickened, minutely puberulent without, erect, deltoid-ovate, small, about 2.6 mm. long, 2.4 mm. broad, acutish at apex, the squamellae entire or obscurely denticulate; corolla salverform, slightly constricted at throat, obscurely puberulent outside on upper part, the tube 12 mm. long, pilose within in staminal region, the lobes spreading, dolabriform, 7-8 mm. long and about as broad, the faucal annulus lightly thickened, the epistaminal appendages about 1 mm. long, inserted near apex of corolla-tube and reaching its orifice; stamens inserted near summit of corolla-tube, the anthers conspicuously exserted, hirtellous on back, 5.4 mm. long, their sharp basal lobes 0.83 mm. long, the filaments about 2 mm. long, pilose on inner margin; ovary glabrous, the nectaries separate, equaling the ovary in length, about 1 mm. long.

Type: Ricardo de Lemos Fróes 21391, Brazil, Amazonas, Iraruca, Içana, Caatinga; Nov. 16, 1945; cipó, flores branco violeta, látex; deposited at The New York Botanical Garden.

Prestonia leptoloba is very distinctive. It is easily separated from all the species in Section Annulares in Woodson's monograph (Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 23: 296. 1936) by its small calyx-lobes and all in the Section Acutifoliae by its

greatly exerted anthers.

In reviewing the species of Prestonia, a problem developed regarding Echites leptoloba Stadelm. The species is incorrectly placed in the synonymy of P. agglutinata (Jacq.) Woods. by Woodson (Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 23: 279. 1936; N. Am. Fl. 29: 180. 1938), who probably was misled by the treatment in Martius' Flora Brasiliensis. In the latter work E. leptoloba is synonymized with E. circinalis Sw., now recognized as conspecific with P. agglutinata. However, while both P. circinalis and P. agglutinata are Haitien, E. leptoloba was described from Brazil, "Japurá, Prov. Rio Negro". Is E. leptoloba actually the same as Prestonia acutifolia (Benth. ex Muell. Arg.) K. Sch.? The epistaminal appendages of the latter are sometimes reduced and might have been missed by Stadelmeyer and Mueller Argoviensis. It is significant that Manso 37, cited as E. circinalis by Mueller Argoviensis in Flora Brasiliensis, is identified as P. acutifolia by Woodson.

If the prior E. leptoloba (1841) indeed proves identical with the well-known P. acutifolia (Haemadictyon acutifolium Benth. ex Muell. Arg., 1860), there might result a re-shuffling in names. To preclude this or some other possible disturbance in nomenclature, on this score at least, I have preoccupied the specific name "leptoloba" in Prestonia, thus eliminating Stadelmeyer's species from further involvement in the genus. Such an appropriation is especially desirable as the epithet aptly describes the scale-like calyx-lobes of the new species described above.

With this nomenclatural safeguard from E. leptoloba that is here provided, it does not mean that P. acutifolia surely will remain unchallenged. Unfortunately the contrary is true; there is a likelihood that the species will eventually be submerged in Prestonia quinquangularis (Jacq.) Spreng., for the characters invoked to separate the two are hardly convincing.

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#### MATERIALS TOWARD A MONOGRAPH OF THE GENUS VITEX. VIII

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##### VITEX ALTISSIMA L. f.

Additional citations: INDIA: Andhra: Santapau 20799 (Xa); Santapau & Wagh 20697 [Wagh 2743] (Xa); Wagh 1306 (Xa), 2359 (Xa). Bombay: J. Fernandez 1380 (Xa, Xa).

The specimens from Andhra, cited above, all consist only of leaves from sterile shoots of young trees. The petiole is broadly alate and the leaflets are distinctly serrate.

##### VITEX COFASSUS Reinw.

Additional literature: Kanehira, Fl. Micrones. 343. 1933; St.